

# NEWS

*from all over the world*

VIA

CABLE  
WIRELESS  
TELEGRAPH  
TELEPHONE

*by the*

## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 158.

Tuesday, February 13, 1940.

### ALASKAN PROJECT WINS WIDE ACCLAIM, ICKES REVEALS; CRITICS SMALL MINORITY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- Criticizing opposition of "certain groups" in Alaska to colonization of refugees, Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes declared today that the proposed settlement in the territory had received one of the most comprehensive endorsements of any major, far-reaching national development ever proposed in the United States.

Approval of the plan was given by 84½ per cent of 338 newspapers which carried editorials on the subject, Secretary Ickes said, with 7 per cent non-committal and 8½ per cent disapproving. Of the 4,135 letters received up to Feb. 2, fewer than one-half of one per cent were critical.

While continental reaction has been overwhelmingly favorable, Ickes declared, certain groups in the sparsely settled territory have voiced objection, claiming that Alaska should not be singled out for special legislation which would allow groups of American citizens and immigrants from Europe to settle there. The Chambers of Commerce of Juneau, Anchorage, Douglas and Fairbanks have taken a stand against various aspects of the plan.

Pointing out that Alaska constantly requests and receives special legislation because of its special problems, Secretary Ickes said: "Much of this opposition is couched in incomprehensible phraseology. It is mainly from a handful of Alaska's 30,000 White population, which feels that its monopoly of Alaskan resources would be threatened by an increased population."

On the other hand, the statement said, four of Alaska's chambers of commerce--those in Seward, Cordova, Skagway and Petersburg--have expressed belief in the feasibility of the plan and have offered every cooperation.

The proposed program, which would provide for development of Alaskan resources by privately financed limited-dividend corporations under Government supervision, has attracted the attention of business people throughout the United States, Ickes said. It is expected that these would form a nucleus of business pioneers, furnishing the capital for enterprises upon which colonization would be based.

(Continued on reverse side)

NAZIS RENEW LODZ EXPULSIONS; SEEK TO MAKE CITY 'PURE GERMAN SOIL'

PARIS, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The German authorities in Lodz, Nazi-occupied Poland have renewed expulsion of Poles and Jews with the announced intention of making the city "pure German soil," Polish official sources reported today.

Gestapo units in Lodz, acting under orders from Berlin, are raiding homes of Poles and Jews and evicting them on 15 minutes' notice, the report said. Permitted to take only a small handbag and 20 zlotys in cash, they are taken by foot or in special streetcars to the Kalisz railway station in Lodz, where they are packed into freight trains and sent to Lublin, Kielce, Radom and other destinations. Many of the freight cars used for transporting the Poles and Jews are roofless, it was said. Men, women and children are packed into them without distinction.

Jews in Lodz who have not yet been exiled are barred from buying food, while Poles are restricted to certain hours for shopping. Most stores, now German-owned, carry signs reading: "Entrance forbidden to Jews. Poles may enter only through the back door."

The Nazis have introduced in Lodz a "super-Aryanism," calling the "Deutsch-Arisch" (German "Aryans") the only "real Aryans," and are relegating the Poles to a position little better than that of the Jews, the Polish account stated.

Only the "Deutsch-Arisch," who consist largely of local Germans and Germans repatriated from Soviet territory, receive rationed butter. The restrictions placed on Poles and Jews, coupled with a severe shortage of bread, meat, butter, soap, eggs and fats, make it extremely difficult to obtain food.

Local Germans were said to be assisting the Gestapo in the drive against Poles and Jews. The situation is similar in cities around Lodz, where Jews are also being expelled, including the cities of Zdunskawola, Brzezyn, Zgierz and Pabianice, according to the Polish report. Local Germans loot the Jews' possessions after they are ousted.

The entire male Jewish population of Zdunskawola between the ages of 18 and 80 were driven to Sieradz, where they were imprisoned for some time. En route, they were ordered, despite the bitter cold, to take off their shoes and dance. Many were obliged to dance until they collapsed. A number of Jews and Poles were publicly hanged in Zdunskawola, but the Jews so treated were not of that town, having been brought from neighboring towns.

In Brzezyn, near Lodz, which was a center of the Jewish tailoring and cloth trade, there are almost no Jews left. Most of the Jewish homes and synagogues have been destroyed.

In Zgierz and Ozorkow, the few remaining Jews are forced by local Nazi commissars to perform public work dressed in women's attire. The commissars prescribe the details of the dress, even to the colors. A prominent Jewish lawyer, after being so treated, attempted suicide.

In Ozorkow, the Nazi commissar treated Jews similarly, with the additional order that they must walk barefoot to work.

London Hopes Welles Will Visit Nazi Poland

LONDON, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The London Daily Telegraph and Morning Post, make the following comment on President Roosevelt's decision to send Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles to capitals of belligerent countries: "It may be hoped that apart from his studies in the four main capitals he will see something of what the Germans are doing in Poland and Czecho-Slovakia."

2,000,000 Face First Matzoth-less Passover

PARIS, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The problem of supplying 2,000,000 Jews in Nazi-held territories with matzoth for the approaching Passover holiday is being discussed by central Jewish relief organizations here. Consideration of the problem, which has become acute since the conquest of Poland, followed an appeal by the Vienna Jewish Community urging world Jewry to secure timely delivery of the unleavened bread in Nazi areas.

With Passover near and with the difficulties which Jews in Nazi territories face in obtaining even ordinary rationed bread, Jewish communities in Germany and Austria feel that unless Passover food is sent in from abroad all the Jews under the Nazi regime will for the first time in their history be without matzoth on the holiday.

Food Parcels Seized

PARIS, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities in Poland are confiscating all parcels of food and clothing sent to Jews by relatives abroad, forcing the recipients to sign receipts for the articles, it was reported today via Geneva.

JEWISH CONGRESS URGES PREPARATION FOR PEACE; ALLIED VICTORY HELD JEWS' HOPE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The national convention of the American Jewish Congress, attended by some 400 delegates from 73 cities, today called upon the Jews to organize for political tasks in preparation for peace and heard a message from British Ambassador Lord Lothian stressing that an Allied victory was the Jews' "only real hope."

The convention, warning that a million Jews would be destroyed if oppression continued for another year, called on Jews to identify themselves with forces seeking the reorganization of Europe as the only hope that there would be a future for Jews in the world.

Lord Lothian's message follows: "The present war is in the main the outcome of a policy of brutality and intolerance of which the Jewish people were the first victims. The victory of the Allied Powers in this war offers to Jews their only real hope of escaping from the hateful maltreatment of their race and of renewing their march toward Zionist ideals in concord with the Arab people."

At a dinner Sunday night, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt said that "this country should not remain indifferent to the sorrows of other parts of the world" and declared that many Christians were interested in helping refugees. She pledged her personal aid whenever called on. Other speakers were Senator Warren Barbour, Czechoslovak Minister Vladimir Hurban, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann and the Rev. Maurice L. Perلزweig, of the World Jewish Congress.

(Continued on reverse side)

Dr. Goldmann, addressing the opening session Saturday night, declared that at present, "no stabilization of the Jewish situation in Europe is imaginable. European Jewry cannot go on living under its present conditions." He emphasized that the only hope for Jews was if they recognized the political character of their problem and organized politically in order to meet it. He added that the fate of the Jews of Europe was bound up with the fate of Europe itself and that just as only the political reorganization of Europe could save European civilization, so Jewish life might be continued in Europe if this political reorganization took place.

The enemies of civilization have seen in Jewry the vanguard of the democracy they seek to destroy, Perlzweig said. He declared: "First the Jew, then the Christian, then the democrat is the sequence. For Christianity is a Jewish religion and democracy is born of Hebrew parentage. If the Jew goes down in this struggle, then woe to the rest of the world."

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the Congress, yesterday clarified the relations of the Congress with the General Jewish Council in his annual report. He denied the Congress sought to withdraw from the Council, but asserted that it had been ineffective. A resolution on the Congress-Council relationship was scheduled to be acted upon today.

"Candor and honesty, as well as the historical requirements of the hour, compel a frank statement of the case," Dr. Wise said. "The facts indeed are that we have not achieved a working unity, that we have not been able to bring about a functioning unity. We have had nothing more than the name and shadow of unity, its form rather than its substance. We shall not permit the Jewish people to rest under the false illusion that the General Jewish Council is a unified and functioning body which oversees and manages the whole field of Jewish affairs. The very term, General Jewish Council, has lulled Jews to sleep, because of the impression that Jewish affairs generally are being cared for with vigilance by this all-embracing body representing fairly and adequately all Jewish groups and elements when, in fact, the very terms of its founding limited the scope of union, and even these limiting terms have not been lived up to."

"The court of last resort of the American Jewish Congress is not the General Jewish Council, which we recognize and accept despite all professions to the contrary as a purely and solely consultative body. The court of last resort of the American Jewish Congress is that great body of Jews from which it derives its support, which called it into being, the Jewish masses of America. The Jewish people of America must not only be kept continuously informed of what is happening within the Council and within the life of American Jewry, but must be enabled to react upon the Congress and the General Jewish Council."

#### UNITED JEWISH APPEAL LISTS 10 MAJOR NEEDS IN EUROPEAN CRISIS

NEW YORK, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- Declaring that vast possibilities exist for providing immediate relief, rehabilitation and resettlement assistance through the \$23,000,000 goal 1940 United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs, Chairmen Abba Hillel Silver and Jonah B. Wise today issued a list of ten major, immediate needs of the U.J.A.'s constituent agencies. The list follows:

(1) War victims in Poland must be fed and clothed. One meal a day must be provided for a minimum of 200,000 adults at a cost of \$360,000 per month; at least 150,000 children must also be given food. The Joint Distribution Committee must expand its relief activities in Poland.

(2) The war refugees who are now in Lithuania, Rumania, Hungary and other countries must be given the means of existence. At least 75,000 of the 170,000 refugees from Germany who are now in havens in European lands, require support either in whole or in part. Aid must be rushed by the J.D.C. to prevent wholesale deportations to Germany. Refugees in Latin America are also in need of assistance.

(3) Thousands in Germany and Austria who still have the opportunity to emigrate to Palestine, to the Americas, to Australia and elsewhere, must be provided with the means of transportation or face the threat of concentration camps, or expulsion to Lublin.

(4) Jewish communities in Rumania, Lithuania, Hungary, Latvia and Estonia must receive funds to maintain their economic, educational, child care and medical program

(5) Immigration to Palestine, which has not been reduced by the war, must be supported because of the extraordinary pressure to emigrate upon Jews from Germany and other Nazi areas. Widespread homelessness has driven large numbers to seek haven in Palestine.

(6) The Jewish community of 500,000 in Palestine is facing severe economic problems as a consequence of the war. Special measures must be taken to promote industrial and agricultural progress and to help 80,000 men, women and children who have felt the shock of the economic recession.

(7) The establishment of new colonies and the purchase of land must be maintained through funds provided by the United Palestine Appeal in order to extend the development of Palestine to enable it to absorb the continued flow of refugee immigration.

(8) Refugees coming to the United States in accordance with Federal Immigration quota require assistance in finding new anchorage in American life.

(9) Resettlement of refugees to assure soundest means of integration is one of many problems confronting the National Refugee Service, which is called upon to assist newcomers with relief, employment, retraining and education.

(10) Refugees waiting their turn in Cuba, England and other lands to come to these shores require special assistance and guidance on migration conditions.

#### COUGHLIN ISSUES PAMPHLET REPLYING TO CRITICS; RADIO TALKS RESUMED

DETROIT, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- Charles E. Coughlin resumed his radio talks yesterday but, despite advance promises that his speech would be of a "tremendously important nature," the radio priest devoted it almost entirely to verbatim quotations from a recent report of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, avoiding more controversial subjects. An announcer on the program urged persons interested in a comment on the Jewish Peoples Committee's complaint against Coughlin to write for a copy of a new book, "An Answer to Father Coughlin's Critics," which the announcer said contained material that could not be given over the air or in newspapers.

(Continued on reverse side)

PELLEY FACES EXTRADITION TO CAROLINA FOR PAROLE VIOLATION; FREED ON BAIL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- Judge Walter J. Casey today ordered William Dudley Pelley held for an extradition hearing March 12 in the District Supreme Court. Pelley was released under \$2,500 bond.

Edward O'Connell, Pelley's attorney, charged that the Silver Shirt leader was "being framed" and asked that he be dismissed since North Carolina officials failed to produce evidence he had violated the conditions of his release under suspended sentence. The court ruled it was unnecessary to supply proof of violations until Pelley was brought before a North Carolina court.

AGENCY SETS UP BODY TO SEEK ARAB UNDERSTANDING

JERUSALEM, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- Carrying out a decision of the last World Zionist Congress, the Jewish Agency has set up a commission to study ways and means of reaching an understanding with the Arabs. Chairman of the commission is Engineer Solomon Kaplansky, former member of the Agency Executive.

WORK STARTED ON NEW BUILDINGS FOR AGENCY EXPERIMENTAL STATION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- Corner stones have been laid for two new buildings at the Jewish Agency's experimental station at Rehoboth, one housing a plant institute and the other an agrarian economics institute. Speakers at the ceremony included M.M. Ussishkin, Arthur Ruppin, Eliezer Kaplan, Prof. Abraham H. Frankel and Moshe Smilansky.

ROSENBERG SEES DOMINICAN PROJECT PLAYING VITAL ROLE IN EASING REFUGEE SITUATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The project for settling refugees in the Dominican Republic gives promise of making an important contribution towards alleviation of the refugee situation if American Jewry furnishes the necessary funds, James N. Rosenberg, chairman of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today on his return from Ciudad Trujillo aboard the S.S. Borinquen.

Preliminary steps towards selection of the first 500 refugee families, who will be settled on the 24,000-acre Sosua tract donated by Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo, are being taken in Europe, Mr. Rosenberg said. It is expected that actual settlement will begin within two months.

The contract which the association signed with the Republic gives assurance that the Government will assist in the purchase of further land, of which the Government owns large suitable tracts near Sosua, Mr. Rosenberg said. Text of the contract will be made public later in the week, he declared.

"I don't claim to be an agriculturist, but all the problems involved have been gone into by experts--Dr. Joseph A. Rosen, Dr. Frederick Perlstein, as well as a commission of three United States Government experts--and they are agreed that the territory offers great prospects for colonization," Mr. Rosenberg asserted.

"The population is sparse--70 to the square mile, and the country eagerly wants more inhabitants. The land is rich and fertile. Economic and agricultural conditions are favorable. If the necessary financial support comes from American Jews, this project can be a very important thing."

- - -

Hoover Cites Africa's Possibilities

CHICAGO, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The highlands of Central Africa offer "tentative hope" for settlement of 10,000,000 refugees, ex-President Herbert Hoover declared last night at a dinner inaugurating the \$2,250,000 campaign of the Chicago Jewish Welfare Fund. It was announced that \$1,000,000 had already been subscribed.

- - -

Plans Experts' Survey in Australia

LONDON, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The Freeland League announced today that its secretary, Dr. Isaac N. Steinberg, is preparing to select and dispatch to the Kimberleys in Australia a commission of experts to study the possibilities of settling refugees there and to draft a colonization plan. The commission will go, the League said, when the approval of the Canberra Government has been obtained. It will include Australian, American and European scientists, according to present plans.

- - -

LITHUANIA DEPORTING ONLY NEW ARRIVALS, NEWS AGENCY EXPLAINS

KAUNAS, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The Lithuanian Telegraphic Agency said in an official statement today that refugees who arrived recently at the frontier between Soviet Poland and Lithuania had been deported because Lithuania was physically unable to absorb new refugees.

Police were arresting illegal immigrants at various points in Lithuania, but their number was small, numbering tens, not hundreds, the statement said. The Agency added that no refugees who arrived in Lithuania before the demarcation of the Soviet-Lithuanian frontier had been deported.

- - -

ORT Helps in Wilno

PARIS, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- A majority of the Jewish refugees in Lithuania are between 18 and 40 years old, it has been ascertained in a survey by the Wilno committee of the World ORT Federation. As a result of the survey, the ORT committee has initiated a broad program of aid through work and vocational training. Workshops established by the committee are producing underwear, clothing and knitwear articles, and are employing a considerable number of refugees in Wilno as well as the provinces

- - -

WILNO, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- According to a comprehensive report just published here, 6,500 meals and more than 10,000 articles of clothing, underwear and footwear were distributed among refugees through special relief organizations set up by the Wilno Jewish Community after Soviet Russia's occupation of the city. Up to Jan. 1, the community established 43 kitchens providing three meals daily.

- - -

17,000 REFUGEES ADMITTED TO SHANGHAI IN 1939

PARIS, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- More than 17,000 Jewish refugees were admitted to Shanghai in 1939, it was reported today by the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association. Seven thousand of the refugees have been receiving free meals, the society said. About 3,000 others have succeeded in establishing themselves in trades and small workshops.

(Continued on reverse side)



CONGRESS URGES WIDENING OF GENERAL JEWISH COUNCIL, RESTORATION OF JEWISH RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- A program designed to restore the rights of millions of Jews in Europe and establish safeguards against the encroachment of anti-Semitism in the U.S. was adopted this afternoon by the annual convention of the American Jewish Congress.

The Congress also voted to maintain its membership in the General Jewish Council but directed its members to continue efforts to have the present policy of the Council reconsidered and overruled and be replaced by a policy "to allow the Council to function as the directing agency in the work of defending the rights of Jews."

Presented by Louis Lipsky, the resolution as adopted holds that in order to make the Council a functioning body the following steps are necessary:

"Extension of the membership of the Council to include adequate representation for other American Jewish groups, in order that the General Jewish Council may become a body representative of all classes and groups in American Jewish life;

"Pooling of the fund-raising endeavors of all four agencies and the fixing of their budgets;

"Creation and recognition of local county councils organized upon a representative basis under the exclusive supervision of the General Jewish Council.

"Effective coordination of the existing diverse activities of the four agencies by placing all such activities under the direct supervision of the General Jewish Council."

In respect to European Jewish problems, the convention, in a resolution, said the world must assure creation of a "new system of international morality and justice to make amends for the injuries sustained by the Jews and to fully guarantee them their rights to life, security and a free cultural development." It urged support for the World Jewish Congress's special institute to set forth the peace aims of the Jewish people.

The convention asked full recognition of Jewish rights in Palestine.

Regarding the combating of anti-Semitism in the U.S., the Congress adopted a program dealing with infiltration of racial and un-democratic propaganda, discrimination against Jews in employment and the need for the organization of individual members of the Jewish community. A new undertaking will be the establishment of a permanent commission for vocational guidance to assist Jewish youth to secure jobs. Establishment of a special commission was authorized to combat anti-Semitic propaganda.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, who with Dr. Nahum Goldmann conferred with Secretary of State Cordell Hull today, was reelected president of the Congress. Judge Nathan D. Perlman was elected vice-president and Lipsky was elected chairman of the governing council. Carl Sherman, former New York State Attorney-General, was elected chairman of the administrative committee and Max Wolff, chairman of the National Council. Speakers today included Polish Ambassador Jerzy Potocki, Senator Mead and James Freeman, Episcopal Bishop of Washington.